

DECLASSIFIED

THURSDAY
JUNE 17, 1954

R

Van Starkenborgh came to see me this morning, and I sent off the following telegram later in the day:

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON PRIORITY
"RPTD INFO: AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
HICOG BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

"POUCHED: LUXEMBOURG (for BRUCE -- 3 copies)

"Newspaper reports that Mendès-France will propose immediate debate on

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>CLE</u>	DATE <u>7-1-81</u>
☐ For XDS ☐ EXT. DATE	
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____	
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RELEASE DENIED ☐	
EXEMPTIONS _____	

German rearmament in effort to find new 'modifications' or 'additions' to EDC Treaty have been accompanied by rumors that this formula has support of US and UK. (See also Ambtel 4857, June 15.) Prospective meeting of the President with Churchill is being interpreted by EDC opposition as evidence that US and UK have written off possibility of ratification by France and will be discussing 'alternatives' to EDC. This is strengthened by generally supposed preference of Churchill for German rearmament through NATO.

"Ambassador Van Starkenborgh called on me this morning to warn me that the Netherlands and probably the other EDC signatory countries would not before French Assembly has acted on present rpt present EDC Treaty consider new negotiations with French or with us in probably futile endeavor to find alternative formula which might attract more support in French Assembly. De Staercke and Ophuls have made similar statements to us in last two days.

"Van Starkenborgh went on to say how constructive he thought it was that US and UK were to have a meeting in Washington without French representation. He said in the smaller countries there was suspicion and resentment of the US, UK and France deliberating together on matters of concern to the Benelux countries as if France represented their interests which decidedly it did not since its prestige in the Benelux countries was near vanishing point.

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"I stated we were firmly opposed to any new negotiations and would continue to insist that new French Government bring EDC to vote before summer recess. I said we would consider any refusal by French Government to act on EDC Treaty until new negotiations had been held as being practically equivalent to rejection of EDC. In such case we would feel free to take a new look at problem of integrating Germany into political, economic and military structure of the West. BRUCE."

Jean Daridan called. He has been at the French Embassy in Washington for six and a half years. He is ~~very~~ popular in Washington, and deservedly so. He returns there shortly to pack his effects and go to his new post in Morocco, where he is sure to have an harassing and interesting tour of duty.

Phil Chabourne came to see me with a telegram from the Department to Doug containing a message from President Eisenhower to be delivered to President Coty assuring him of the steadfast friendship of the United States in this time of difficulty. I was asked to comment on whether the references to the EDC were satisfactory to me. I saw no objection to them, although I think it ~~was~~ a mistake for the President to send any telegram at all to President Coty at this time since it might imply, in the minds of French politicians, an apology for not having asked France to participate in the U.S. meeting with the U.K. on June 25.

I left tonight with Tommy and André de Staercke on the 5:45 train for Brussels, where we are to dine with Spaak. Rothschild met us and we motored out to an attractive restaurant, which looked more like a maison de rendez-vous, in the park for dinner. Mr. Spaak was in fine form, but I regret that he thinks champagne the best beverage to ward off attacks of gout.

We got back to the Hotel Metropole sometime after midnight and could find no trace of our suitcases. About 2:00 o'clock an enterprising domestic discovered them in someone else's room.

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